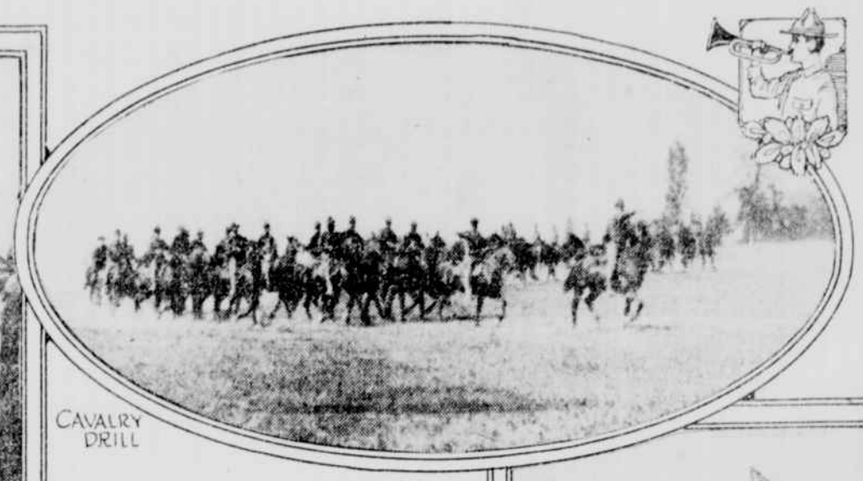
IN CAMP WITH UNCLE SAM'S FUTURE VOLUNTEER OFFICERS

EQUIPMENT INSPECTION. MILITARY INSTRUCTION CAMP, BURLINGTON, VERMONT



CAVALRY DRILL

STARTING OUT ON PRACTICE MARCH

In Four Outdoor Training Schools Hundreds of College Men Undergo Rigid Courses to Equip Them for Field Service in Case of Their Country's Need—Five Weeks of Untiring Work at the Camp Situated on the Shore of the Beautiful Lake Champlain.

By WARREN S. BARLOW,
Captain U. S. Army.

SITUATED on the outskirts of Burlington, on the beautiful shore of Lake Champlain, is the Student Camp of Instruction, conducted by the War Department under the supervision of competent army officers. This is one of four camps situated in different parts of the country. One is at Asheville, N. C.; another at Ludington, Mich., and the third at Monterey, Cal.

There was no appropriation to defray the expense of these camps. Each student paid his fare to and from the camp, and 50 cents a day for subsistence. This presupposes a strong desire on the part of each young man to obtain military knowledge, and is a tribute to the patriotism and energy of American youth. Besides the expense, the students devoted five weeks of their time, which might otherwise have been spent in the various pastimes of summer at seaside and mountain resorts.

The War Department detailed for instruction Company M, 5th Infantry, Captain Edwards, from Plattsburg Barracks, N. Y., and Troop L, 2d Cavalry, from Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont. These troops were used for instruction in the field, acting as the enemy, in all field manœuvres. The cavalry troop was used for instruction in horsemanship, under Captain E. L. King, 2d Cavalry, who has seen efficient active service in the Philippines.

REGULAR ARMY OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF THE FOUR STUDENT CAMPS.

Five regular army officers were detailed in charge of the four student companies, and to their untiring labors and strict attention to duty were due in a great measure the splendid results which were obtained.

The medical department was represented by Major Ekwurzel and Captain Blanchard. Their sanitary arrangements were very effective, and every precaution was taken against the spread of camp diseases. Each student, if desirous, received the inoculation against typhoid fever, which has been found so wonderfully efficacious in the regular army.

There were 400 students, coming from practically all the prominent colleges and military schools of the Eastern States.

The subsistence or commissary department was under Lieutenant Barnes, of the 5th Infantry, whose efficiency was attested by the splendid meals he served and the substantial way in which the student soldiers disposed of large quantities of beef, mutton, vegetables, bread, fruit and coffee.

TREMENDOUS ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM PACKED INTO FIVE WEEKS' WORK.

One should have been on the spot and seen the enthusiasm and energy of the young soldiers to appreciate the amount of work done and the results obtained through this wonderful system of camps. Young men from all the leading colleges—fine, handsome young fellows, tall and robust, with the spring of youth and the air of college life—swarmed all over the camp, and there was an air of bustle and determination to learn everything possible about military life in the short space of five weeks devoted to the work.

Of course, a soldier cannot be made in five weeks, but he can in that time learn many things that would be of inestimable benefit to him if at some future time he were given the opportunity and privilege of fighting for his country. He learns how to sleep in the open, in all kinds of weather, with or without shelter; he carries on his back in marching a very compact outfit, consisting of a change of underwear and socks, a blanket, poncho or rubber coat, comb, toothbrush, etc.; also one-half of a small shelter tent, which, with the other half carried by his rear rank man, makes a remarkably comfortable and commodious protection in practically any weather. It may be raining great guns outside, but with his poncho and that of his mate on the ground, his blanket underneath and his comrade's blanket above, the boy can laugh at the weather and sleep comfortably through an otherwise dismal night. To prevent the rain getting under his bed he must dig a small trench around his tent. This carries off the water, which otherwise would in five minutes destroy his comfortable sleep and have him sitting up for the night.

THE YOUNG SOLDIER LEARNS THE DUTIES OF CAMPING.

As soon as camp is reached the order is given for pitching tents. Each man plants his pin in line, and in five minutes an orderly row of little houses is up and ready for occupancy. This row with others forms a little village. Soon camp fires are going, and then there is one of the prettiest sights of the soldier's life. Picture to yourself numerous little fires, possibly under the trees, and sitting around the fires groups of young men, tanned and sturdy, cooking and smoking; the light of the fires, the shadows flitting among the tress, with here and there the sound of laughter or a measure of a song, make a picture never to be forgotten, the very thought of which brings back old memories of friends, some dead and some in distant lands, and makes the sluggish blood of age stir again with the energy of youth.

The student learns not only how to pitch his tent; he must learn how to cook his ration, make his coffee and make his allowance of food last him for the prescribed time; many a green soldier, after receiving three days' rations, consumes the whole amount in a day and a half, thus leaving him stranded and hungry the remaining time, dependent upon the charity of a more fortunate comrade, who has either learned by experience or has had the forethought to husband his subsistence. It is remarkable how good a meal of bacon, hard tack and coffee can taste, eaten under the skies, with appetite for a sauce and anticipation of a future meal for dessert. An old soldier can compound some toothsome dishes from the regular ration with the aid of a little fruit or a stray chicken picked up on the march.

CAMP AT BURLINGTON UNDER COMMAND OF CAPTAIN OLIVER EDWARDS.

The camp at Burlington was under the command of Captain Oliver Edwards, of the 5th United States Infantry. By military knowledge, training and disposition, Captain Edwards was well fitted for the task. Quiet and unassuming, yet with a thorough understanding of the requirements of such a project, he mapped out the work of the battalion and carried out his plan with extraordinary results. Starting with two-thirds of his men absolutely without military training, many never having even handled a rifle, in three weeks he developed them into a compact body of young soldiers, respectful, obedient and capable. They could drill both in company and battalion, in close order and in skirmish line. They could manœuvre in the field, obeying only orders given by whistle and signal. They received instruction in guard duty, gallery practice with the service rifle, wireless telegraphy, first aid to the wounded, military map sketching and horsemanship.

Of course, it must be borne in mind that the students were exceptional material upon which to work; they were young, intelligent and enthusiastic—a hard combination to beat. But the way in which they kept up their enthusiasm speaks well for them and for the officers in command.

CAPTAIN EDWARDS A STUDENT OF FRENCH ARMY METHODS AND EFFICIENCY.

Captain Edwards has been detailed with the French army studying their methods and efficiency, of which he has formed a high opinion. He was much impressed with the French soldier's ability to march, and it was his intention before the camp closed to give his command a chance to demonstrate that they are just as good as the Frenchmen.

The object of these instruction camps is to give elementary training to as large a number of college men and graduates of military schools as possible. It is a well known fact that in the event of war the standing army of the United States could act only as an advance guard for the great volunteer army whose organization would follow the opening of war. But the question is where to get the officers and non-commissioned officers for the numerous regiments to be mustered in. These camps are one answer to this important question. A great majority of the students could, after one or more camps, act as non-commissioned officers and in some cases lieutenants of companies. The camps of instruction last year were not so successful, but this year the report from all directions was much more encouraging, as they profited by the experience gained.

The first two weeks of camp were spent in the learning of camp routine in recruit drills and close order drill in the school of the company and battalion. These consist of movements in compact bodies on the drill grounds, and enable the companies to move at will to the place where the enemy is encountered. At that point the knowledge of field manœuvres is necessary. Suppose that the battalion left camp at 8 a. m. with orders to march to a certain town, given on the map, there to collect forage and supplies, and camp for the night. The enemy is known to be in the vicinity. At 10 a. m. the advance guard receives a report of a body of cavalry and infantry at the bridge over a certain river. What shall be done? That is the important question, to be answered at once. Is the information correct, and if so, does it warrant stopping the advance of the main body. Messages must be sent to the rear. The advance guard proceeds cautiously, and finally either drives the enemy away, and allows the main body to continue the march, or becomes involved in a skirmish with the enemy, who are found to be in force. This necessitates the bringing up of the support, and we have a meeting combat, a very common form of manœuvre.

WHEN QUICK DECISIONS AND A COOL HEAD ARE ESSENTIAL.

Or, suppose again that the battalion under Major A. has orders to effect a junction with the battalion of Major B. at Yorktown, for the purpose of capturing one of the enemy's outposts. While on the march Major A. receives information that a battalion of the enemy is five miles on his left flank at a certain town and threatening to force a bridge crossing held by two companies. Shall he continue his march according to orders, or shall he go to the support of his compatriots? If he goes we have the problem of a change of direction of march. Major A. must consider the circumstances, the consequences of delay, etc., and must decide according to his judgment. Will this judgment be right? That is where experience counts.

It may seem simple as we read to form a judgment, but when an officer is in the enemy's country, with woods, streams, a hostile population and enemy's scouts, and he is suddenly brought face to face with a problem or is suddenly subjected to a heavy fire from concealment, it is no easy matter to formulate a correct plan. There is no time to study; action is imperative. Unless the officer has himself well under control or is experienced he may lose half his command in a short time.

Here comes in the question of taking cover. This means the use of anything which will give protection, while allowing a good field of fire against the enemy.

Formerly in field drill there was a set form of attack; the company would advance fifty yards, lie down and fire all in a line, whether there happened to be cover or not. Now there is no set distance; the advance is made, if possible, to cover, and each man takes the best cover he can find, a sunken road, a rock, a bush or a rise in the ground; thus the line may not be straight, but there will be fewer casualties, and there will be a stronger fire on the enemy.

In this way field tactics and manœuvres have been simplified and made more practical. The efficiency is for results, not theories; there are fewer parades, but there is five times as much practical work as there used to be. The keynote is efficiency, and officers are tested for it; the old days of club and poker are over; officers work all day, and sometimes all night, and although some rebel, the majority welcome the change. The officers at Burlington were a fine example of the system.

The system of student camps is a product of the brain of General Wood, who realizes to the fullest extent the need of the nation for trained young men. As Chief of Staff he encouraged military schools another great hope of the volunteer army. It is said, upon one occasion, when England was contemplating war with us, an adverse decision was reached, due to the report of investigating officers, that every other hill in the United States was crowned with a military school.

These manœuvres in the field constituted the instruction for the third week of camp. On the fourth week the battalion had target practice on the range of Fort Ethan Allen; each day they marched four miles to the range and four miles back, an excellent preparation for the practice march which took place the fifth and last week of camp. The practice march is used to harden the men and animals and make them ready for active campaign. The men learn the care of the feet; how to prevent blisters, corns, skinned feet, etc.; they learn how to make and break camp; to cook the ration, to march, to counteract the effects of the sun and the rain. The officers learn the care of the mules, the problems of transportation of supplies, the subsistence of the men in the field. Coupled with the practice march are manœuvres.

Finally, when the five weeks are over the student is a fine specimen of brown, sturdy manhood. He has learned how to care for himself, to associate with his fellows; he has learned to command, perhaps, but, best of all, he has learned to obey, which is the first requisite in learning to command.

The daily programme was practically the same each week. The morning was taken up with compulsory work. The afternoon was occupied with drills, which were optional; target practice, wireless telegraph, etc. In spite of this, large numbers turned out for the afternoon drills, proving that the students set business before pleasure.

STUDENT COMPANY RECEIVING INSTRUCTION IN FIRING & AIMING

Music was furnished by the 5th Infantry Band from Plattsburg Barracks. Every afternoon there was a concert, and twice a week the band officiated at parade. Another sphere of activity was at the balls—given by the students each Saturday night in the gymnasium of the University of Vermont. These were largely attended and were a source of great pleasure to the students, the officers and their friends in the City of Burlington. The officers from Fort Ethan Allen, with their handsome full dress uniform or the cooler uniform of white duck, added picturesqueness to the scene.

The town of Burlington is one of the most beautiful in New England. It is situated on a hill which rises abruptly from the shore of Lake Champlain. It is remarkably clean and well kept, and the citizens take a great pride in their streets and lawns and large trees. They have shown much hospitality to the visiting students, and were very generous with material used in constructing the kitchens, etc., used in the camp.

The War Department is much interested in the results obtained at the four student camps. As far as can be learned, they will justify the continuation of the system, if anything, upon a larger scale. It is to be hoped that Congress will the coming year see fit to appropriate money for the continuation of this good work.

VAMPIRES NIGHTLY GUESTS OF SILESIANS

By HEREWARD CARRINGTON.

TO THOSE living in Silesia, Moravia and along the southern frontier of Hungary the word "vampire" has a terrible significance. For centuries past the inhabitants of these countries have believed implicitly in such terrible beings, and assert that their belief is founded upon only too real evidence. Travellers who scoff at their assertions have more than once had cause to change their minds, owing to some fearful experience of their own. For the benefit of the reader we shall describe, first of all, just what a vampire is, according to those who are most familiar with this terrible being and his ways.

Certain persons who have died, it is said, have the power of leaving their graves, in some form, and returning from time to time (generally at night) to suck the blood of living persons, and in this manner they are enabled to maintain themselves in a state, if not of life, certainly one very different from death. Fastening upon their victim, they suck out the life blood through two small needle-like holes which they make in the victim's neck. They sit upon the chest like an incubus during sleep. Preferably they attack young persons who are full-blooded and have an abundance of vitality.

Occasionally these persons wake during the process, and frightful have been some of the battles that are said to have taken place between mortal and vampire. Sometimes one and sometimes the other would be victor. Most commonly, however, the person so attacked would not wake, and then he or she would rise in the morning pale, weak, emaciated and exhausted, for no apparent reason. This went on, as a rule, until that person died, when another would be attacked in like manner. This would continue until the vampire would be finally caught, exhumed, his head cut off, his heart cut out or impaled, when, with a fearful shriek, he would finally "give up the ghost." When the body of the vampire was impaled fresh blood would gush out. The body would be so full of blood, on occasion, that it would scarcely hold it all, and it would be found exuding from the ears, eyes and even skin! Any person bitten by a vampire would become one himself when his turn came to die. Such is the grewsome belief still held by many of the inhabitants of the Transylvania Mountains and in the countries mentioned.

The following cases are typical of many that might be given:

"Mr. Tulip was an extraordinarily strong, well-built and healthy man, but at the beginning of December last he suddenly began to fail in health. The doctors could not locate his disease, and he grew rapidly thinner and weaker, complaining of nothing but extreme lassitude and feeling like a person who was daily bled. Finally, on December 20 last, all Vienna was surprised to hear that Mr. Tulip had died. Post-mortem examinations showed all the organs in a perfectly normal condition, and the doctors found nothing better to register than marasmus (emaciation) as the cause of this extraordinary event. Strange to say, during the last days of his disease, when his mind became flighty, he often imagined that a stranger was troubling him, and the description he gave of that personage fitted a certain Mr. Helleborus, with whom he had quarrelled some time before. . . .

"During Mr. Tulip's illness news come from Meran that Mr. Helleborus, who had been very ill, was rapidly gaining in health and strength and recovering from his illness in a most remarkable manner; yet immediately after the death of Mr. Tulip Mr. Helleborus failed and died."

Another case is the following:

"A miller at D—— had a healthy servant boy, who soon after entering his service began to fail. He had a ravenous appetite, but nevertheless grew daily more feeble and emaciated. Being interrogated, he at last confessed that a thing he could not see, but which he could plainly feel, came to him every night and settled upon his stomach, drawing all the life out of him, so that he became paralyzed for the time being and could neither more nor cry out. Thereupon the miller agreed to share the bed with the boy, and proposed to him that he should give him a certain sign when the vampire arrived. This was done, and when the sign was given the miller grasped an invisible but very tangible substance that rested upon the boy's stomach, and, though it struggled to escape, he held it firmly and threw it into the fire. After that the boy recovered, and there was an end of those visits."

Cases such as these might be multiplied indefinitely. What is one to think of such happenings? Like all beliefs of the kind, we must assume that there is some residuum of truth amid the error and superstition. It cannot all be imagination. But if there is any truth in these stories, how much, and what is it?

About two hundred years ago a learned priest, by name Augustine Calmet, published a work, in two volumes, in which he critically examined a number of these stories of vampires. After narrating a number of them he goes on to say: "I lay down at first this principle—that it may be that there are corpses which, although interred some days, shed fluid blood through the pores of their bodies." Although this is hardly the case, under certain peculiar conditions something akin to it make take place, and thus give rise to the stories where fresh blood is found in the corpse.

As to the death of some of the persons who were attacked by vampires Calmet says: "I add, moreover, that it is very easy for certain people to fancy themselves sucked by vampires, and that the fear caused by that fancy should make a revolution in their frame sufficiently violent to deprive them of life."

Had he lived in these days he would have put such cases down to the "influence of suggestion."

There are cases on record where the beard, hair, nails, etc., are found to have grown after death, and this was thought to be a sign of vampirism. But to this Calmet says:

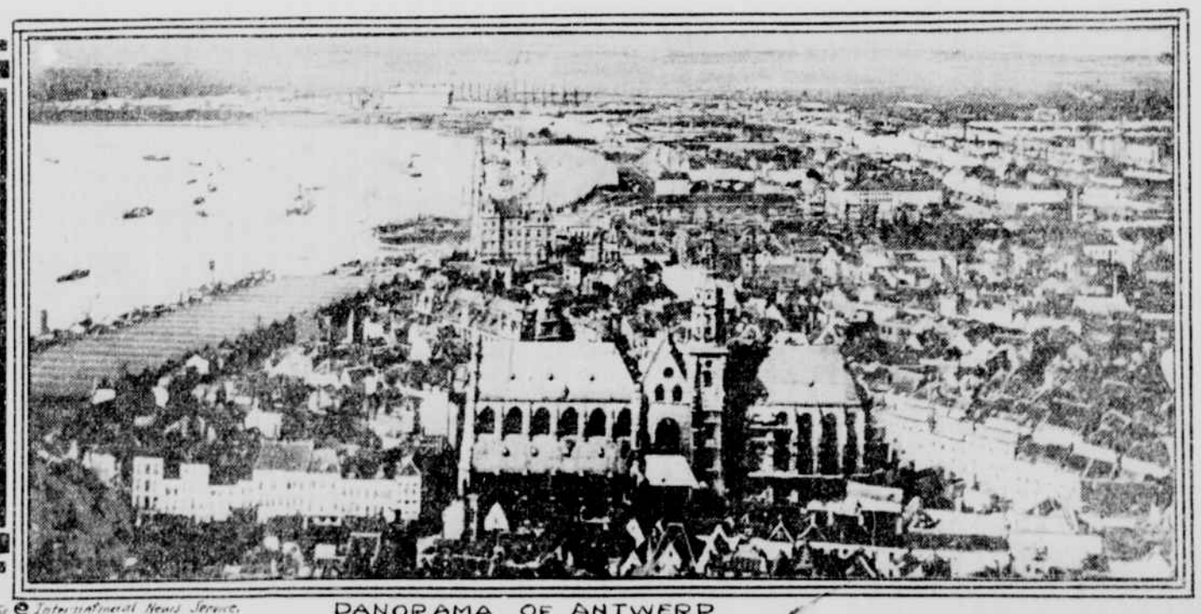
"Experience teaches us that there are certain kinds of earth which preserve dead bodies perfectly fresh. . . . As to the growth of the nails, the hair and the beard, it is often perceived in many corpses. While there yet remains a good deal of moisture in the body, it is not surprising that sometimes we see some augmentation in those parts which do not demand a vital spirit. . . . As to the cry uttered by the vampires when the stake is driven through the heart, nothing is more natural; the air is there confined, and thus expelled by violence necessarily produces that noise in passing through the throat." . . .

While much of M. Calmet's physiology is a little shaky, still he has grasped the main truth of the question. He saw that natural physical causes operating in the body produced, on occasion, those odd changes and influences which were thought to be proof of vampirism.

Yet the difficult problem still remains: How does this body get out of its grave to come and haunt living persons? To this Calmet replied that the figures seen were doubtless apparitions (hallucinations) and not physical beings at all, and were helped out by dreams, delusions and other morbid phenomena. When the person said he touched the figure this was probably a case of so-called "tactile" hallucination, just as there are "auditory" and "visual" hallucinations. None of them is real or objective.

Such are probably the foundations of a belief which has overshadowed Southeastern Europe for centuries. Doubtless there are no real vampires, in the sense commonly supposed, but there are odd psychical facts which have given rise to the belief—apparitions, dreams, hallucinations of various kinds, suggestion and the effects of fear, as well as certain morbid physical and physiological phenomena. These are the fundamentals of the belief. Accompanying them we have also certain odd cases where the body has been remarkably preserved after death—as we know to be the case when the body is placed in an atmosphere of carbonic acid gas, in certain earths, when the patient has died of certain diseases, etc. These, then, are the basic facts; the vast superstructure of this fearful belief has been built upon them. May the day not be far distant when advancing education, civilization and progress will forever banish the vampires from these lands, and they have been banished from other countries over the civilized globe.

TYPICAL STREET SCENE IN ANTWERP



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PANORAMA OF ANTWERP